United States Mint Launches 36th America the Beautiful Quarters Program Coin

February 8, 2017

First quarter of 2017 honors Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa

WASHINGTON – The United States Mint (Mint) joined the National Park Service today to launch the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program coin honoring Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa. The coin is the first of five America the Beautiful Quarters to be issued in 2017, and the 36th in the series.

The coin's reverse (tails) depicts an aerial view of mounds in the Marching Bear Group. Inscriptions are "EFFIGY MOUNDS," "IOWA," "2017," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

"The Effigy Mounds quarter design embodies the spirit of this sacred landscape," said Marc Landry, Superintendent of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. "This new coin honors a special place where ancient people changed the landscape of their world in the most extraordinary way."

More than 1,200 local residents and schoolchildren gathered in the Allamakee Community School District High School Gym for the ceremony, led by KWWL News anchor/reporter Jerry Gallagher. Additional ceremony participants included Jim Nepstad, Effigy Mounds National Monument superintendent; Edmore Green, Tribal Chair of Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska; Fred Schuster, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley; Brittney Carroll, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Joni Ernst; and Michael Olson, who represented U.S. Congressman Rod Blum.

Launch highlights included a videotaped message from Iowa native Peggy Whitson, astronaut and biochemistry researcher for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and special recognition of fourth-generation Iowan Richard Masters, who designed the new quarter. Masters, an artist in the Mint's Artistic Infusion Program, has designed coins and medals for the United States Mint for more than 10 years. Read more about Mr. Masters at /learn/artists/aip-richard-masters.

Following the ceremony, attendees traded their cash for newly-minted Effigy Mounds National Monument quarter rolls.

Authorized by Public Law 110-456, the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program is a 12-year initiative to honor 56 national parks and other national sites. Each year, the public will see five new national sites depicted on the reverses (tails sides) of the America the Beautiful Quarters issued in the order in which the sites were first established.

Additional information about the America the Beautiful Quarters Program is available at /learn/coin-and-medal-programs/america-the-beautiful-quarters, while free lesson plans based on the program are available at http://www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/. A digital image of the Effigy Mounds National Monument quarter is available at /news/image-library/america-the-beautiful-quarters-program#effigymounds.

About the United States Mint
The United States Mint was created by Congress in 1792 and became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. It is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. Its numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to taxpayers. The Mint is celebrating its 225th anniversary in 2017 (USMint#225).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- View b-roll of the Effigy Mounds National Monument quarter at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO2N3V7GCtU&index=3&list=PLoycqRjxZI6Y5A9igJnCtTuDMZhVoyM_9
- View an interview with Effigy Mounds National Monument quarter sculptor Renata Gordon at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0tTzy8W9ek&list=PLoycqRjxZI6Y5A9igJnCtTuDMZhVoyM_9.
- Find information about Effigy Mounds National Monument at: https://www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm.
- For information about the United States Mint, please visit /about/about.

- To subscribe to United States Mint electronic product notifications, news releases, and public statements, visit https://catalog.usmint.gov/email-signup.
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